

# WYNNE BACK AND 'OVERJOYED'

## *3st. lost in prison, but in good heart*

### NOT TOLD BY CAPTORS OF LONSDALE DEAL

DAILY TELEGRAPH REPORTERS

**M**R. GREVILLE WYNNE, the 45-year-old British businessman gaoled as a spy by the Russians, was re-united with his wife and elder son Andrew, 12, outside their Chelsea home yesterday.

The couple embraced, then ran arm-in-arm into the house. Asked how he felt after his 18-month ordeal, Mr. Wynne said: "I feel as I look. So you can judge for yourself."

Mr. Wynne, who lost nearly three stones in weight during his 17 months in Russian prisons, was flown home after being exchanged at a Berlin border checkpoint early yesterday for Gordon Lonsdale, the Russian spy gaoled for 25 years in Britain in 1961.

Mr. Wynne's release followed reports that his health was deteriorating. He was examined by a London doctor, Dr. E. C. A. Bott, two hours after arriving home. Dr. Bott said "Mr. Wynne is as well as can be expected. He is in very good heart."

Mr. Wynne had a celebration dinner and drank champagne with his family and friends last night, while a policeman stood guard outside his house. He went to bed early.

#### "POOR BUSINESS" Bargain against West

Meanwhile Lonsdale, 40, whose real name is Conon Molody, was somewhere behind the Iron Curtain. Lonsdale was the master spy of the Portland espionage ring.

The exchange of this brilliant Russian intelligence officer for an

Wynne's Walk to Freedom; and Lonsdale's Family—Back Page Pictures—P22 Editorial Comment—P16

Englishman always described as "a businessman" appeared to be poor business for the West.

But to the Russians it was a fair exchange. They alleged that Mr. Wynne was the link between the Soviet traitor Oleg Penkovsky, a scientist and high-ranking officer of their security service, and the British Embassy in Moscow, which transmitted the secrets he disclosed.

#### THIN AND STRAINED Silent on treatment

After the Berlin exchange, Mr. Wynne was flown to Northolt Airport in an RAF Transport Command plane. First aboard when the plane landed was a Foreign Office official, closely followed by public relations officers from the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Looking thin and strained, Mr. Wynne came out of the aircraft and posed for pictures at the top of the steps. He was wearing a well-cut grey suit, with a Nottingham University tie, and a light-weight blue raincoat.

He would not speak to reporters about the treatment he had received in Russia, apart from saying that the three meals a day he was offered in prison did not agree with him.

#### PRISON "MOVE" Prelude to release

The first indication he had that he might be going home came less than 24 hours before he landed at Northolt.

"I was sitting in my cell in Vladimir Prison (about 120 miles from Moscow) when they came in and told me I was to be moved from the gaol," he said. "I didn't know where I was going or anything about it."

"I was put in a plane and got to East Berlin, at least I assumed it was East Berlin, because I didn't really know. The first time I knew definitely I was being freed was at four a.m. when I was handed over."

Mr. Wynne said he heard no mention of Lonsdale while in prison. He did not realise he was one half of an exchange deal until he was safely in the British car taking him to West Berlin.

Asked why he had pleaded guilty "with some reservations" at his trial, Mr. Wynne said: "At the present time I am not going to make any comment on this matter."

Twenty minutes after leaving the plane Mr. Wynne spoke to his wife, by telephone. It was the first time

(Continued on Back Page, Col. 5)

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## "RELEASE A SURPRISE... I DID NOT KNOW WHERE I WAS GOING"

From a prison cell near Moscow to his home in a quiet Chelsea street within 24 hours—this was the speed with which the exchange was executed.

When Mr. Wynne arrived home yesterday, he said he heard from the Russians while sitting in his cell on Tuesday that he was to be moved from Moscow. "They did not give me any definite indication that I was to be exchanged. They just said there was a possibility that I was leaving the prison. I did not know where I was going or anything about it."

It was only yesterday morning, just before he was handed over to the British authorities at the Berlin checkpoint, that he was told about his release.

The physical change in Mr. Wynne was apparent when he stepped from the aircraft at Northolt that had brought him from Berlin. Looking tired, pale and thin and with his head shaven, he said in a brief interview that the exchange had come as a surprise to him. "I have not really collected my thoughts yet", he stated. "I am overwhelmed. I want to get back to normal life as soon as possible."

### NEIGHBOURS CHEER

He said he had lost considerable weight. He had found the food in the prison "very difficult to take, not being accustomed to it".

After the interview Mr. Wynne went to a private room in the airport where he telephoned his wife, who was awaiting his arrival at their home in Upper Cheyne Row with their son, Andrew, aged 11. Throughout the morning telegrams of good wishes arrived at the house.

On the drive from the airport Mr. Wynne was accompanied by plain

clothes policemen. Reporters and photographers outside his home were joined by neighbours, who cheered Mr. Wynne, a rather bewildered figure, as he left the car. Police had to force a way for him through the crowd.

How did he feel? "I feel as I look", he told reporters. "You must judge for yourselves, gentlemen."

What were his plans? "To get back to my family", he replied, adding: "I see them there", as he noticed his wife pushing her way into the crowd to greet him. They kissed and, embracing each other, walked up the garden path. A few feet from the doorway Mr. Wynne saw his son in the entrance hall. Rushing forward he embraced him.

A few minutes later the family reappeared in the garden to pose for photographers. Then they went inside again, and the door was closed.

Later Mr. Joseph Baker, a friend of the family, said Mr. Wynne was resting. He had not slept for two days. He had declined to eat lunch, saying he did not feel like it. He had lost two or three stone, but was otherwise quite well.

After visiting Mr. Wynne in the afternoon, Dr. Edward Bott, of Montpelier Square, Knightsbridge, said: "I found him as well as could be expected. He is in very good heart, but he has got to take things quietly."

Mr. Ambrose Appelbe, the London solicitor who acted for Harry Houghton and Ethel Gee, who were both sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment at the same trial as Lonsdale for passing information about the underwater weapons establishment at Portland, said yesterday he intended getting in touch with them. He considered it extremely unfair that the mere subsidiary characters should remain incarcerated while the principal character was released.

### ANGLO-FRENCH TALKS ON TRAINER AIRCRAFT

Aviation Ministry officials and their French opposites are investigating the possibility of a joint requirement for an advanced training aircraft for the Services.

A Ministry of Aviation spokesman said: "The discussions are in the early stages, and we have not got down to details about the plane itself. Both countries have a requirement for a new advanced trainer, and this is a possible field for a joint project with the French."

### WOMAN RALLY DRIVER IN HOSPITAL

IGNACE, ONTARIO, April 22.—Mrs. Anne Hall, one of Britain's leading women drivers, suffered cuts on the head today when the car she shared with her American navigator, Mrs. Jean Steagall, overturned during the 4,000-mile cross-Canada rally. Mrs. Hall was taken to hospital at Dryden, 70 miles west of here; she was expected to be detained overnight. Mrs. Steagall was driving when the car skidded on a patch of ice.—Associated Press.

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### Humane Exchange

The exchange of Mr. WYNNE for Mr. LONSDALE was justified on humanitarian grounds, but there are dangers in this sort of thing becoming a habit. The Russians get a rook for a pawn, as they did two years ago when they exchanged Mr. FRANCIS POWERS for COLONEL ABEL. In neither case did the disparity matter very much in itself, for the Russian pieces were no longer able to do serious harm. However, it would be dangerous if the Russians were to become too confident of western humanitarianism. Every time one of their spies was caught they would be tempted to seize some minor courier, or even a harmless tourist, and trade him over the counter. It is not impossible that this is what they were up to with PROFESSOR BARGHOORN, who was not released until PRESIDENT KENNEDY made it clear that the entire progress of relations between the two countries was threatened. This was no tactical exaggeration. Free and confident travel in both directions is essential if the deterrent is to make any sense. Fear of arbitrary arrest is a serious obstacle, and too much exchanging of prisoners could increase it.

There is also a danger in reducing the deterrent effect that long prison sentences must have on spying. The difficulty here is that one's own agents suffer as much as the enemy's. But spying inevitably conflicts with civilized values, and most spies, knowing this, expect no mercy. The desire to seek it on their behalf is understandable. Regrettably it may sometimes have to be curbed.

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